

## C.Desmond Greaves (1913-1988)

C.Desmond Greaves, whose work and writings inspired the foundation of this Weekend School, was one of Ireland's leading labour historians. He was author of *The Life and Times of James Connolly*; *Liam Mellows and the Irish Revolution*; *Sean O'Casey: Politics and Art*; *Wolfe Tone and the Irish Nation*; *History of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union: The Formative Years*; *The Irish Crisis*, and three books of verse, *Four Letter Verses and the Mountbatten Award*, *Elephants Against Rome* and *By the Clock 'Tis Day*.

Desmond Greaves opposed the application of Britain and Ireland in 1961 to join the supranational European Economic Community (EEC). He believed that in the era of the EU and the near-global domination of Transnational Capital, the most important political task for democrats and the Labour Movement was to join in an international campaign in defence of the Nation State as the fundamental locus of political democracy and the only mechanism which history has evolved for imposing social control on private capital. He saw this as applying James Connolly's views on the national question in present-day circumstances.

Desmond Greaves believed that the peaceful way to end the partition of Ireland was to secure maximum equality between Nationalists and Unionists in the Six Counties, thereby removing any rational basis for Unionism as an ideology that justified domination over Nationalists and opening the way for Northern Unionists to rediscover in time the political implications of the common Irishness they share with their Nationalist fellow countrymen and women.

As an activist in the Connolly Association, London, and editor from 1948 to 1988 of its monthly newspaper *The Irish Democrat*, he pioneered the idea of a campaign for civil rights as the way to shatter Unionist political domination, which was taken up by the 1960s Northern Civil Rights Movement.

### BOOKINGS AND ADMISSION

Full school €30  
Individual sessions €10  
Students/unwaged half-price



### ENQUIRIES

Kevin McCorry, School Director  
Tel: 086-3150301  
E-mail: Kevinmccorry44@gmail.com



### LIVESTREAMING

Check out the livestreaming of the 35th Weekend School on Facebook:  
Desmond Greaves Annual School  
See the School website at  
[www.greavesschool.ie](http://www.greavesschool.ie)



### BOOKSTALL

Books and pamphlets on Irish history and politics will be on sale at the Weekend School, provided by Connolly Books, 43 Essex St., Dublin 2.



### SCHOOL VENUE

Please note that the venue for the Weekend school is the UNITE Trade Union Hall, 55/56 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin, off O'Connell Street.

The hall is a hundred yards or so down on the left, across the street from the back of Arnott's store.



## 35th DESMOND GREAVES SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

*Three days of political thought and discussion  
from Friday to Sunday, 5-7 September 2025,  
at the UNITE Trade Union Hall, 55/56 Middle  
Abbey Street, Dublin 1, D01 X002*

### TOPICS

*The Multipolar World:  
Opportunities and Difficulties  
The legacy of the United Irishmen  
The future of Irish neutrality:  
political party symposium  
Zionism and the future of Palestine*

# THIRTY-FIFTH DESMOND GREAVES SUMMER WEEKEND SCHOOL 2025

FRIDAY EVENING, 5 SEPTEMBER, 7.00pm

## 1. *The Multipolar World: Opportunities & Difficulties*

**Vijay Prashad**, Executive director of the Tricontinental Institute for Social Research; internationally known author and commentator documenting Global South anti-imperialist resistance and democratic alternatives to current Big Power policies.

**Launch of a new edition of Desmond Greaves's classic history, Liam Mellows and the Irish Revolution, by its editor Dr Ruan O'Donnell, University of Limerick.**

CHAIR: **Clare Daly**, former TD and MEP, long-standing political activist known for her anti-war stance, advocacy of Palestinian rights, opposition to EU militarization and social justice campaigning.

SATURDAY MORNING, 6 SEPTEMBER, 11am

## 2. *The Legacy of the United Irishmen Movement*

**Dr John Gray**, former director of the Linen Hall Library, Belfast; historian specialising in Irish radicalism, Belfast's political past and the preservation of Ulster's dissident cultural archives; founding member of the Reclaim the Enlightenment group.

CHAIR: **Margaret Ward**, Honorary Senior Lecturer in History, Queen's University Belfast; leading feminist historian, author of *Unmanageable Revolutionaries: Women and Irish Nationalism* and other books.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, 6 SEPTEMBER, 2.30pm

## 3. *The future of Irish neutrality: with representatives of political parties opposing the abolition of the Triple Lock*

A symposium with Senator Chris Andrews (Sinn Féin), Peadar Tóibín TD (Aontú), Sinéad Gibney TD (Social Democrats), Paul Murphy TD (People Before Profit) and others

CHAIR: **Stephen Kelly**, Chair of PANA (The Peace and Neutrality Alliance), solicitor, opponent of EU militarization and Irish ties with NATO.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, 7 SEPTEMBER, 2.30pm

## 4. *Zionism and the future of Palestine*

**Philip O'Connor**, historian and political analyst; regular contributor to the Irish Political Review; authority on Palestine

CHAIR: **Dr Helena Sheehan**; Professor Emeritus DCU; Visiting professor, University of Cape Town and Peking University, Beijing; historian of science, philosophy, culture and politics.

### AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS

*Those attending the Weekend School are invited to meet for a chat and drink or snack after each session at Wynn's Hotel, 35-39 Lower Abbey Street*

### THE DESMOND GREAVES ARCHIVE WEBSITE

The School Committee is glad to announce that all 38 volumes of historian and political activist C. Desmond Greaves's two-million-word Journal is now on this archive at

[www.desmondgreavesarchive.com](http://www.desmondgreavesarchive.com)

This is likely to be an important document for Irish and British historians of our times. Also on the web-site are all but one of Desmond Greaves's books, three volumes of his verse, significant articles, reminiscence by friends, and the full file, 1939-2000, of the "Irish Democrat", the monthly journal of the Connolly Association in Britain, which Greaves edited from 1948 to 1988. The website also carries Greaves's Table-Talk, which is presented under the title "Insight, Ideas, Politics", and contains much interesting comment on his life and times as well as all sorts of human issues.